

together

SUMMER 2024



three
square™

together, we can feed everyone

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

You're creating
*smiles and
wholesome meals*
for children.



Food for Thought

Your commitment to ending childhood hunger exemplifies the compassion we cherish at Three Square Food Bank. Your dedication is especially vital when school meal programs become unavailable during the summer. Your support ensures every child has the food needed to thrive.

You are a true friend to children facing hunger across Southern Nevada.

Through your generous partnership, **you stand up for the one in five kids living in a food-insecure household.**

While waiting in a doctor's office, I met a fourth-grader who noticed my Three Square shirt. With a bright smile, she said, **"You help people."** Her simple yet profound words reminded me of the impact we have through your support. Her recognition of our mission underscores the importance of what we do.

Meet Up and Eat Up, Kids Cafe, and Backpack for Kids are just a few of the programs that would not exist without caring people like you. Please take a few minutes to read about the incredible difference you're making. Then, I hope you'll continue your support by making a gift today to uplift children in need.

Every \$1 you give provides 3 nourishing meals.

There's no reason any child should experience hunger. No child can focus on school or even play without food, and a lack of proper nutrition can lead to lasting physical and mental challenges into adulthood. Together, we can provide the wholesome meals necessary to lead healthier lives.

Your generosity reinforces my belief in the power of collective action to make a difference in our community. Let's continue to create positive change for local children and families!

Gratefully,

Beth Martino, President & CEO

Thank you for helping neighbors in need and making ours a community that cares!

4190 N. Pecos Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89115
702 644-3663
threesquare.org



OUR MISSION

The mission of Three Square Food Bank is to provide wholesome food to hungry people, while passionately pursuing a hunger-free community. Our vision is simple: No one in our community should be hungry. By bringing together the resources, experience and passion of the people and businesses of Southern Nevada, we can make sure no one has to. Together, we can feed everyone.

Three Square Food Bank is registered with the Secretary of State and qualified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, and a member of Feeding America. Established in 2007, Three Square is Southern Nevada's only food bank and the area's largest hunger-relief organization. Your charitable contribution to Three Square is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Thanks to You, Kids Get to Meet Up and Eat Up

The summer months pose a real challenge for struggling families. With schools closed for the long break, parents cannot rely on district meal programs to help keep their children fed. And with the persistently high cost of groceries and electricity, this summer is especially difficult.

To fill this gap, our *Meet Up and Eat Up* program helps children and teens in low-income areas receive the nourishing food they need.

Kids Cafe *Curbs* After-School *Hunger*



Melissa Sanchez has been working with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for the past three years. As the Youth Services Librarian, she is in charge of ordering all the books for their children's collection. But books aren't the only resources kids can access at the library to learn and grow.

As one of Three Square's community partners, Melissa and her team operate *Kids Cafe*, an after-school program that provides free meals to children between 2:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon. On an average day, they'll serve 25 to 30 meals. But recently, they've provided as many as 50 to 60 nutritious meals in a single afternoon, a reflection of the growing need in these challenging times.

"When middle school and elementary school lets out for the day, it can get very, very busy," Melissa says. *"There's often a line to get the meals."*

Helping children through *Kids Cafe* is extremely personal to Melissa, who grew up attending a Title 1 school in a lower socio-economic community. *"We didn't have this,"* she says. *"As a person in a similar situation to a lot of these folks who come in here, I just think about how great it would have been to have adults who wanted to support not only my education*

"One in three low-income households report not having enough food," says Tara Nerida, Director of Programs at Three Square. ***"This program is particularly important because some kids do not always know where they are going to get their next meal if they are not in school."***

Last summer, volunteers packed approximately 20,000 meals each week, which were distributed at over 85 locations across the valley. And with support from compassionate friends like you, we anticipate feeding even more kids this summer.



but my nutrition too. I am immensely proud that we provide this program."

Through the support of generous friends like you, when school closes up for the summer, the library continues to provide free, fresh meals as one of our many *Meet Up and Eat Up* sites. (See page 2!)

Thank you for partnering with Melissa and our local libraries to help ensure no child goes hungry!



"This summer, we are hoping to serve nearly 100 sites across the valley, including 18 mobile route stops," Tara says. *"I am so thankful for our partners, volunteers, and community for their dedication to ensuring that no child is left hungry. We are truly working together to provide innovative solutions that give children the meals they need to succeed and build a healthier community."*

Meet Up and Eat Up is a crucial part of this effort, and we're very grateful for the role you play in making it happen.



Largest Backpack for Kids event in Three Square *History*

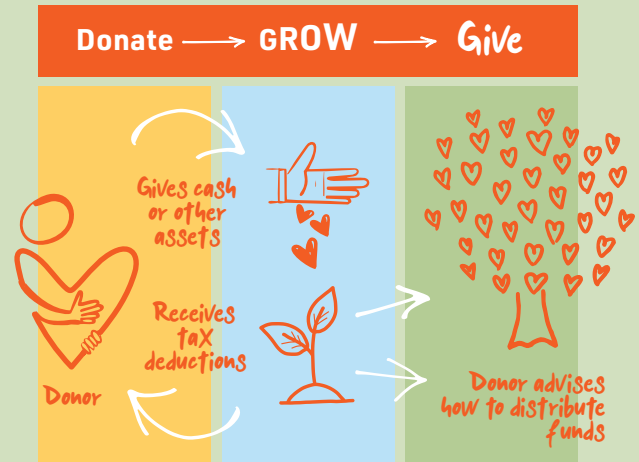
Approximately 75% of Clark County students rely on free and reduced-price meals. But what happens when school is out of session? Thanks to community partners like Smith's Food & Drug, children can access meals each weekend through our *BackPack for Kids* program.

Working with numerous donors, volunteers, and partners, Three Square provides bags filled with ready-to-eat meals each Friday. Recently, Smith's Food & Drug coordinated the largest single donation of backpacks by a community partner. From donating the food to rallying 270 volunteers, **their group assembled 10,000 Backpack bags for local students.**

This vital help won't end there. Thanks to friends like you, *BackPack for Kids* will continue to support children once school is back in session!

Giving Through a Donor-Advised Fund is a *Win-Win*

There's a reason donor-advised funds (DAFs) are the fastest-growing charitable giving vehicle in the country: With a DAF, you can maximize the timing of your tax deductions while still helping charities you love, like Three Square.



To learn more, please contact Kate Hibbard Gaines at 702-644-3663 x325 or kgaines@threesquare.org.

Help End Childhood Hunger *This Summer*

While most kids start counting the days till summer vacations, others may find themselves wondering where their next meal may come from. Three Square is committed to helping children and families facing hunger in the months ahead, but our programs and distributions are largely funded by caring friends like you. With your help, children can fill their tummies and their summer with wholesome food and cherished memories.

Please continue your support today with a generous gift to help end childhood hunger this summer.

Every \$1 you give today will provide 3 meals!

Let Kids be Kids!

